

THE RICHMOND DISPATCH.
BY THE DISPATCH COMPANY.

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and resolve that he shall never be Governor of Virginia if his vote can prevent it.

Every Democratic speaker ought to call attention to these contrasts. The people of Virginia are too intelligent not to perceive at once, after hearing what Hoadley says contrasted with what FORAKER says, that the cause of FITZ LEE is the cause of Virginia.

To elect John Wise in a southern State, and thus to invite Congress to return to the days of reconstruction, to carpet-bagging, strife, dissension, and turmoil, would be to commit one of the most stupid acts that any people were ever guilty of. It would be to endorse what he says of this State, and would therefore be to invite trouble and humiliation. It would in effect be to ask the Republican party again to send down their DE THOMAS and other military officers to take charge of the State capitals and State Legislatures, as was done in 1876, when Mr. TILDEN was elected out of the office of President. Will the people of Virginia thus stultify themselves? Let all the people say, "Never!"

Our Contrast.

If any doubt existed as to the national character of the Virginia contest and the grave responsibility that rests upon the Virginia Democrats in the present crisis, that doubt would be dissipated by the tone of the Democratic and Independent press of the country. Evidence is piling up every day to show that the Virginia canvass is the centre of public interest, and that most important results to the nation are dependent upon a Democratic victory here in November. From all quarters come words of cheer for the Virginia Democrats, coupled with warnings that a failure to administer a crushing defeat to Mahoneism will be disastrous to the national Democratic party and to the country. Recently the Barwell (S. C.) *Sentinel* contained an article setting forth in earnest terms the interest the southern States have in our contest and the necessity for overthrowing MAHONE and his followers. "The Old Dominion," it declared, "is of vast importance to the Democratic party." The *Baltimore Sun* regards the *Sentinel's* remarks as timely, and follows that comment with some facts which constitute a strong appeal of its own to the Virginia Democrats to make a desperate fight to secure the Legislature. While expressing the belief that FITZ LEE cannot be beaten even if the northern Republicans were disposed to help MAHONE largely, the *Sun* says:

"There is no doubt that a victory won by Mahone in Virginia at this time would strengthen the Republican party amazingly, while his loss of the State would give his seat in the Senate to a Democrat. Mahone's time expiring but a little more than a year hence, the next Legislature of Virginia will have the duty of electing his successor. It is this fact, apart from the deep interest taken in the success of the gubernatorial canvass of General Lee, that makes the present campaign in Virginia of more than ordinary importance. By the fall elections the Republicans gained two Democratic seats in the Senate previously occupied by Farley, of California, and Slater, of Oregon. These two seats, added to the majority of four they had in the Forty-eighth Congress, will increase their majority to eight at the next session. But if the Democrats carry Virginia and Ohio this fall, by electing successors to Mahone and Sherman they will reduce the Republican majority at the succeeding session to four, and thus recover what they lost in the spring. Including Mahone and Sherman, there are sixteen Republican senators and eight Democrats whose terms expire on the 4th of March, 1887. The places of all these are to be filled at the next session of their respective State Legislatures."

The *Sun* then gives the senators whose terms expire in 1887 in detail, and adds:

"If the Democrats can carry four of these seats (Republican seats), losing none of their own, there will be a tie in the Senate. The Democratic majority in 1887, with Vice-President Hendricks giving the casting vote. How many Republican seats it is possible for the Democrats to get? If they carry the Legislature of New York, New Jersey, Virginia, and Ohio, which by hard fighting they may do, they will be able to sweep entirely away the present Republican majority in the Senate, while in addition to these States they have the chance of replacing Republican with Democratic senators in Connecticut, Wisconsin, and Minnesota—States that are now classed as doubtful. Indiana is confidently expected to return a Democrat in the place of Harrison. That the Republicans will make a desperate fight to retain their hold on the Senate is to be expected. But with the Democratic control of the Government, and with the immense influence in the gift of the Government outside of the fifteen thousand covered by the civil-service law, it ought not to be difficult for the Democrats to gain enough seats in the Senate to give President Cleveland a clear working majority in both houses of Congress for the last half of his term."

Could anything demonstrate more clearly than the above facts and comments that the Virginia Democrats are fighting the battle of the national Democratic party? Could anything emphasize more strongly the warning we have frequently given our people to look to the close countries? Upon the result in Virginia in November may depend in great measure whether CLEVELAND's hands shall be so strengthened and the national Democratic party so encouraged as to render Democratic success in 1888 a reasonable inference. That, at least, is the conclusion of the leading journals of the country.

We are glad to find that General ROGER A. PRYOR regards the civil-service act as unconstitutional. We cannot feel "lonesome" in company so good. We quote from the *New York Herald*:

"I have had no opportunity for thorough study of the subject, and therefore I am expressing an unprepared venture. I am, however, inclined to think that the civil-service act is unconstitutional. But I confess that the inclination of my mind, upon first blush, is to the conclusion that the civil-service act is invalid as imposing an illegal restriction upon the absolute power of appointment conferred by the Constitution. An appointment to office does not mean merely a formal nomination,

but involves discretion and responsibility. It is so far as discretion and responsibility are taken away, to that extent is the power of appointment qualified and limited, contrary to the express provision and manifest intent of the Constitution.

"If the President be limited to a selection of an appointee from among persons recommended to him by the Civil-Service Commission, is not his power of appointment restricted?

"Besides, if the qualification for office be prescribed by the Constitution, does not an addition to that qualification involve an infringement of the Constitution? If the Constitution be silent as to qualification, that is equivalent to the requirement of no qualification by the fundamental law, and Congress has no power to impose one."

This is sound doctrine so far as it concerns the Federal Government. It does not apply in the "respective States."

Sensible Talk on Silver.

We begin to suspect that the Washington Post may, after all, be speaking for the Administration when it advises the Democrats in Congress to agree upon a compromise silver-law. At any rate our Washington contemporary, though a monometalist, talks good sense when it administers to the *New York Herald* the following reproof:

MISTAKING THE ISSUE.—A great deal of space is just now being devoted by the *New York Herald* to show that the continued coinage of the standard silver dollar will soon cause the money basis to shift from gold to silver, and so bring about a financial disaster. It daily quotes the opinions of bankers and business-men as to the effect of a further coinage of such dollars, and generally winds up with the refrain: "The Bland bill must go."

It seems to us that our *New York* contemporary is mistaking the practical issue and wasting its energies in the wrong direction. It is making its fight purely and simply against the further coinage of silver dollars, and the only question it suggests is the immediate and unconditional repeal of the statute, the foundation of which was the Bland bill. Notice was served on the monometalists by the House of Representatives last winter that that body would not agree even to a suspension of that act as a solitary piece of legislation, and there is not the slightest reason to suppose that the House of Representatives, which must next winter, will be any more inclined to an unconditional repeal suspension.

The real question, then, is not whether the act can be repealed with our concessions, but what must be the legislation which the enemies of the present silver dollar will consent to annex to the repealing or suspending act. In plain words, what inducements are to be held out to the silver-men for their votes in favor of suspension or repeal?

It is the practical way of looking at the situation, and our *New York* contemporary would use its time and space to better advantage by so doing, rather than fighting the Bland act with nothing in view but wiping it off the statute-book.

That's a true statement of the facts. What do the statesmen in Congress care for the crude notions of the Wall-street gold cranks, with whose alleged opinions the *Herald* crowds its columns day after day? Practical men—statesmen—desire to see the silver problem solved. They are anxious to promote the prosperity of the country. But they know there is much to be said on both sides. Instead of aiding them—instead of giving the views of men who have studied finance and of men who understand something about political economy, the *Herald* gives only one side of the question. That won't do. We must, as the *Post* intimates, hear both sides and then devise a compromise that will be willing to accept.

The New Silver Bill.

A bill is now being prepared in the Treasury Department under the direction of Secretary Manning and Treasurer Jordan which contemplates a compromise on the basis of a plan suggested by Comptroller Cannon in his last report, and afterward proposed by Congressman Warner, of Ohio. The coinage of the standard dollar is to be stopped, and the consent of the silver-men is to be won by this proposition by a continuation of the purchase of bullion. Certificates are to be issued representing the market value of bullion at the time of its purchase, and these certificates are to be redeemable at the quotation reigning at the date of presentation. In other words, silver will be used as part of the circulation at its true value, and not as at present, in coins worth 84 cents which pass for a dollar. It provides a constant demand for the products of the mines; it gives the market prices, as at present, to the owners of silver, and it contemplates the issuance of certificates for the bullion purchased, which will bear on their face an indication of what they are actually worth. The denominations of these certificates have not yet been determined, but small issues will be avoided, if possible.—*Washington Telegram*—New York Times.

We don't credit this story. Why should the Government purchase bullion for which it has no use?

Small Notes.

The public will not allow Secretary MANNING, nor Treasurer JORDAN, nor even the President of the United States to suppress these notes. Merchants cannot do without them. Editors cannot do without them. No body can do without them. Let us have small notes, Mr. JORDAN.

The Rev. Dr. NEWMAN is not wholly bad, or else he would have joined with WHITEHEAD REID, MURAT HALSTEAD, JOHN SHERMAN, FORAKER, and the rest of the northern malignants, in waving the bloody shirt, instead of saying as he has said:

"Grant's death cemented the union of North and South. His ghost will haunt the man who would disturb that fact."

Let the Republican candidates for Governor in Ohio and Virginia put that into their pipes and smoke it.

Were there no other issue in this campaign, the fact that the next Legislature is to elect a United States senator should be ample sufficient to give life and vigor to the Democratic cause.—*New York Ledger*.

MAHONE no doubt regards it as much more important that a Republican Legislature should be elected than that WISE, WOOD, and BLAIR should be successful. It is not in human nature such as his to hold otherwise. The Democrats must, therefore, be as wise as he, and so direct their efforts as to

contract his schemes. Surely it is no small matter to have all the circuit and county judges depending upon your exertions, or upon your neglect to make any exertions.

HALSTEAD ON FITZ LEE.—"He represents the maintenance of Bourbonism in old Virginia. There was nothing in the Convention that nominated him but the glorification of the Southern Confederacy. If he is for anything it is to hold the South solid for reaction to make the States that were in the Confederacy still in the Union."

HALSTEAD still furnishes useful party capital to the Democrats of Virginia. Perhaps it is also good party capital for the Republicans of Ohio; but we doubt. Five weeks from yesterday will tell the tale.

The geological survey of New Jersey is proving its value, if only in the matter of information concerning the water-sheds in the north-eastern part of the State. Artesian wells may be counted upon almost with certainty to flow at the depth of 500 feet.—*New York Tribune*.

It is time Virginia had a State geologist at work.

Less than eight weeks from now until the Virginia election. Have you done ought for FITZ LEE? If not, go to work at once.

Less than eight weeks from now until the election. Have you done ought to make sure the election of a Democratic Legislature? If not, go to work at once.

BRIEF COMMENT.

It would seem that the assessment circular of Chairman COOPER, of Pennsylvania, was a campaign "slip."

A cable dispatch says OSMAN DIGNA was shot and killed. The cable says he was shot and killed. The cable says he was shot and killed. The cable says he was shot and killed. The cable says he was shot and